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7th October 1959

ISTITUTO DI GENETICA  
UNIVERSITÀ DI PAVIA

PAVIA

VIA SANT'EPIFANIO, 14 - TEL. 23,029

Dr. Joshua Lederberg,  
Department of Genetics,  
Stanford University,  
Stanford, California.

Dear Joshua,

Your tape was, as usual a pleasure, except for the lack of direct news from Esther; if I do not answer by the same means it is just because I prefer to have a copy of some of the information contained herewith, concerning item 1, for my own memory.

1. Consultancy. The main decision about it should take place at the end of October when Giovanni will be spending some days with the Schering people. If the decision is favorable, as we hope, Giovanni could come to Stanford for a day or two in the week 8-14 November, to give you the answer, and discuss details with you. He will phone you from New York during the first week of November to fix the date of his arrival in Polo Alto.

Meanwhile, first contacts have been made with the Italian end of the deal, namely Lepetit, and the orientation at this end is as follows:

(a) Your obligation would be that of designing (no time limit, no haste of any kind) a plan of experiments for the search in the field of antiviral or antitumor agents, or both, which would be discussed with us and the experimental part of which would be in our care. We have made it clear that you want to have your consultancy with us, not with the firms in question, and Lepetit has no objections. One visit by Lepetit and Schering before taking final commitments will probably be necessary but after that your contacts would be restricted to those with us. I hope this comes as close as possible to your own wishes which you expressed to me in Milan. Should you have altered your mind in this respect, please let us know before contacts with Schering take place.

(b) Finance: Main items. We would ask Interist for:

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(i) A fee of \$4000 a year for you

(ii) A fund of \$2000 a year for travelling expenses. Claims possible on this fund: by yourself for travelling to Europe, first-class, plus \$100 per day of your stay in Pavia; or by one of us (myself or Giovanni) for travelling to your laboratory, first-class fare, no per diem (or not on these funds).

(iii) A special budget for your experimental research plan. This will have to be calculated by us in local prices, and its magnitude has not been discussed. As the type of plan would depend on money available but the money available also depends on the plan, you might give suggestions on this point. I remember your telling me you had a very expensive plan in mind. Perhaps I would try to keep it as a second plan, or just mention rough figures (orders of magnitude) and general aim of various plans, if any choice is possible.

(iv) No discussion has taken place on the delicate question of ownership of findings of practical value. Giovanni will let you know about our own commitments in this respect and what he finds out about it at Bloomfield.

(c) Your connections with Bristol are not incompatible with this plan. ~~We do not want to ask you details about this plan.~~ We do not want to ask you details about them; but it would suffice to know whether there would be any clear overlap with our joint work, in particular, whether you could consider these three fields: production of new antibacterial, or antitumor, or antiviral substances free for our joint work.

(d) Giovanni and I would like to add to these formal agreements, a personal one between you and us, that we have a chance to discuss freely with you and have the benefit of your advice on our own Interist plans which may be in progress. In practice, we would normally send you a copy of our quarterly reports and expect a comment on them sometime.

Any comments on the above that you may want to make and would reach here before October 20th would ease the  
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deal by permitting us to talk them over at the Italian end.

2. My Visit to California I am always inclined to spend with you July and August (perhaps until the 20th) if possible, and the reason why I did not dedicate much thought to it yet is that I have always had (and still have) tedious and more urgent problems to ponder about. I have to attend a seminar ("National Statistics and Genetics") in Europe June 27th to July 1st and could then fly directly, so as to be in Stanford, say for July 3rd. Could you please write me: the exact terms (if I remember correctly it was \$2000 in all), so that I can make a rough estimate of the financial situation, and let me have the new list of houses when available (the one of last year was very attractive), as well as recapitulate my obligations in the way of courses? The possibility of using the travel fund, of our prospective industrial collaboration and thus perhaps taking Alba with me seems to ease the financial aspects.

If the final decision could be delayed to say, the middle of November, I would be relieved, because by that time a decision might be available for the Parma competition. Its importance in the present connection is mainly that, if I shall have to spend more time in Parma I shall have (there) more time for reading, which would be essential for preparing a course. Here it is impossible to read.

The Committee for the Parma competition should have met by October 20th, but several members apparently want to refuse this early date. Committee members: B. Schreiber (Parma), G. Montalenti, C. Jucci, Chiarugi (botanist, Florence), Stefanelli (embryologist, Rome). There is only one geneticist (formally), and two who know genetics. There are 13 candidates.

#### Work

This section is still very small. I have been bus

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with statistical analysis of the first stock of data worked out with IBM machinery. Nothing very exciting so far, but the possibility of analysis of a mass of human data are worth investigating. I now have Dr. Lia Fischer working with me in the bacteriological laboratory, and I hope this will make the laboratory more efficient than last year, when efficiency was near to zero. The  $F_3$  method works well on strokes, less well on colonies, but we have to improve the EM medium, which is unsatisfactory; could you send your formula, and give a small amount of the ingredients you use for it to Giovanni when you see him? Of course one could use simple M Lac medium, but the scoring should have double efficiency on EM Lac.

We are anxious to hear whether Adriano has been successful in his plans for inter-university cooperation. He will be here in a couple of weeks.

Everybody is well. Is the cycling a useful reducing aid?

All the best to you and Esther.

Yours,

*Luca*